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FREE

Hill Parents Save Webster and Starr King Schools Board of Education Closes Maxwell Middle School

By Tony Kelly

After a clumsy and frequently chaotic meeting in front of hundreds of angry parents, the SF Unified School District's Board of Education voted to cut its budget by closing four of its schools and merging eight others in January. The Potrero Hill schools spared include Daniel Webster and Starr King elementary schools. Closing Enola D. Maxwell Middle School at the end of this school year in June and moving the International Studies Academy high school to the Maxwell campus in September has also been voted on an approved. Downtown Continuation High School, an alternative high school for students who have damaged their academic careers, will move to the ISA campus in September.

The SFUSD's closure plan listed every public school on Potrero Hill for closure or merger. It was only announced publicly on December 6, with a vote by the Board of Education scheduled for January 10. The speed and lack of public involvement in the process outraged parents across the city. The district's defense – that they needed to move quickly, and earlier in the school year after a disorganized and contentious process to close seven schools in the spring of 2005 – only attracted more criticism.

In a stunning example of neighborhood organization and local pride, Potrero Hill parents – many without children old enough to be in school – banded together to save Daniel Webster Elementary and Starr King Elementary Schools from the

proposed closure/merger list. Their campaign attracted city-wide attention, and special congratulations from the Board of Education during the vote to spare the elementary schools.

Dena Fischer, one of the leaders of the Hill parents, explains how the campaign began by accident: "Our original mission was to get to know the staff and parents at Daniel Webster and get involved now to see how we could make it the best school it can be, for the current students and for the younger kids who will attend in years to come," Fischer said. "When we called Linda Anderson, the principal, then she told us about the possible closure."

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Major Potrero Fuel Spill Under Reported

By Joe Boss

In late December MUNI's Woods Maintenance facility, located on the East side of Potrero Hill at 22nd and Indiana Streets suffered a huge 40,000-gallon diesel fuel leak. According to a small article in the San Francisco Examiner on January 5, federal, state and local government agencies are investigating why the leak went undetected long enough for the major spill to occur. The diesel leaked out of a hole in a piece of flex pipe running to four underground 20,000-gallon diesel storage tanks, and went on undetected in spite of the fact that tests the EPA helped conduct on Jan. 4 found all the alarms in "good working order."

According to the Examiner article, EPA emergency response officer Bret Moxley said the agency was apparently not notified through its leak alarm system, and the EPA is currently conducting tests to determine when the leak began. "Muni hasn't been able to tell to us why they didn't respond to the alarms," he said. "And, he added, Muni has been very cooperative in responding to the problem and trying to fix it."

Susan Eslick, who lives across Tennessee Street from Woods, reported that she and her husband had heard alarms going on and off for several days in late December, but figured that they would be attended to by MUNI. "We thought that the alarms were just one of the many bells and whistles that go off from time to time at the repair shop. Obviously if I thought it was a fuel spill I would have called the authorities. I just can't believe the spill made it all the way to Islais Creek undetected," she added.

When asked for a comment, Janet Carpinelli who lives a block away was not surprised. "MUNI lost close to \$100,000 worth of fuel, but can't afford to replace dead trees in the community park on 22nd Street that they are supposed to maintain. MUNI once again demonstrates they lack the ability to operate as good neighbors. If a private business had even a 40 gallon spill, it would be all over the front page and on the TV news programs," Carpinelli stated.

MUNI has been invited to give a status report at the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meeting on Tuesday, February 22nd, from 7- 9 PM, at Watermark Press, 950 Tennessee Street at 20th. The public is always invited.

CENTRAL WATERFRONT GREENTRUST KICK-OFF EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

By Janet Carpinelli

On Thursday evening, January 19th over 250 green-thinking people took part in an event marking the creation of a unique project, the Central Waterfront GreenTrust. The celebration was the kick-off for an ambitious neighborhood based mission to create a greener and cleaner Central Waterfront neighborhood, on the eastern side of Potrero Hill. The keynote speaker, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, offered her congratulations and full support to the effort, spearheaded by the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association (DNA) with the financial support of area developers.

Martin Building Co. has pledged seed money that will support the efforts, coordinated by the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC), and Mayor Gavin Newsom's Office of City greening. The concept is to create an organization with its own Board of Directors that will hire an urban planner to coordinate all of the government agencies and local businesses and property owners, to identify and plan for the future open space and park needs for the growing Central Waterfront. Another task will be to raise funding through grants from open-space foundations, as well as State and Federal programs. This is a complicated goal that will require cooperation and coordination with the

Port of San Francisco, the City Planning Department, the Department of Recreation and Park, Department of Public Works, MUNI, new developments, and local property owners. Without the leadership of such an organization, real progress would be impossible.

Michael Yarne of Martin Building Co. described how the idea of an organization, focused on the Central Waterfront, developed after several presentations to the Potrero Boosters and the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association of their proposed condominium project on the east side of Third Street between 19th and 20th Streets. "It became

(Continued on Page 20)



Left to Right: Susan Eslick, Janet Carpinelli, Jane Martin, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, Loran Sagan (Build, Inc.), Patrick McNerny (Martin Building), Marshall Foster, Isabelle Wade, Lou Vasquez (Build, Inc.) Michael Yarne. Photo courtesy of Christopher Irion

To Make America Safer, Congress Must Reform Intelligence Oversight

By Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader

The uproar concerning President Bush's admission that he authorized the National Security Agency (NSA) to conduct certain electronic surveillance affecting people in the United States is a wake-up call for intensive congressional oversight of intelligence activities.

Review of intelligence-gathering and analysis is a critical responsibility of the legislative branch. But as the independent 9/11 commission concluded, "so long as oversight is governed by current congressional rules and resolutions, we believe the American people will not get the security they want and need." As one who served on the House Intelligence Committee for 10 years, I know that the 9/11 Commission's concerns are justified and require immediate action.



Representative Nancy Pelosi

Congress is not an afterthought in assessing intelligence activities; federal law requires that it be kept informed of all such activities. But despite that clear statutory directive, the Bush administration consistently acts as though it alone owns intelligence information.

The products of our intelligence agencies belong to the government, of which Congress is a co-equal branch. The executive branch operates intelligence programs and activities, Congress oversees and pays for them – and thus has a responsibility to ensure that they are effective and carried out in a manner consistent

with the Constitution, our laws and our values. That's why the intelligence committees were created. But as the 9/11 Commission noted, the way intelligence information is conveyed to Congress, and the way Congress operates makes rigorous oversight impossible.

The executive branch provides notice of some especially sensitive intelligence information only to the chair and ranking member of the House and Senate intelligence committees, and to the leaders of Congress. This is how I came to be informed of President Bush's authorization for the NSA to conduct certain types of electronic surveillance.

But let me be clear: When the administration notifies Congress in this limited manner, it is not seeking approval. There is a clear expectation that the information will be shared with no one, including other members of the intelligence committees. As a result, only a few Members of Congress were aware of the President's surveillance program, and they were constrained from discussing it more widely. That limitation must change.

In the executive branch, decisions about who should have access to intelligence are made on a "need to know" basis. Congress must adopt a similar principle. The members of the intelligence committees are entrusted by their colleagues with the responsibility for making sure that intelligence practices are consistent with our laws and our values. Unless the entire committee has access to the same information, under tight confidentiality rules, Congress cannot respond legislatively to intelligence activity by the executive branch.

In the 17 months since the 9/11 Commission called on Congress to review the adequacy of its intelligence oversight system, I have written to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert four times to urge that we proceed in a bipartisan fashion to get that job done. In the letters, I have proposed that the House create a bipartisan, bicameral working group to recommend improvements to the oversight process. Its goal would be to find ways for Congress to more effectively carry out our statutory requirement to specifically authorize all intelligence activities; to make sure that all information provided to the Chair and

(Continued on Page 6)



We Get Letters

School Anger

Editor:

To say that I'm angry about the closure of Maxwell (formerly Potrero Hill) Middle School of the Arts is an understatement. I worked as a teacher at the school for 30 years, from 1973 to 2004. My blood sweat and tears, along with that of my dedicated colleagues, went into keeping that school open and thriving in the face of neglect by the district and a revolving door of less than competent and often lazy principals—by my count at least 25 of them during my tenure there.

The student population of the school dwindled from a high of 900 students to the current low of around 150. Certainly some of the blame can be placed at the foot of the current high housing market which has made it untenable for many families to continue to live in one of the highest housing markets in the country. But much of the blame can be placed directly on the school district which did little or nothing to support the school.

Be that as it may, it was the core of long-time teachers, along with Enola Maxwell and Ruth Passen from the NABE, who fought to keep the school open and to provide the best possible education for the students. The teachers became the voice for the students at school board meetings. What did we get for our efforts?—being told that we were terrible teachers and trouble makers.

Well, now that some of the long-time dedicated core of teachers has retired, now that many others of them were forced to leave when the school became a 'dream school,' and when one of our most committed teachers, Tony Alvire, died, literally on the job - now that there is no longer a voice for the students, the district did what it had wanted to do for a long time. It closed the school.

I say to them, "Have you no shame? At long last, have you no shame?"

Robin Brasso
San Francisco

We welcome letters from our readers. Please send them to us at *The Potrero View*, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or e-mail them to editor@potreroview.net. Letters must be signed and include a street address as well as a phone number. Letters to the Editor are subject to editing for length and clarity.



GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m., at 50 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: February 14.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th Streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz. Next meeting: February 14.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: February 3 and March 3.

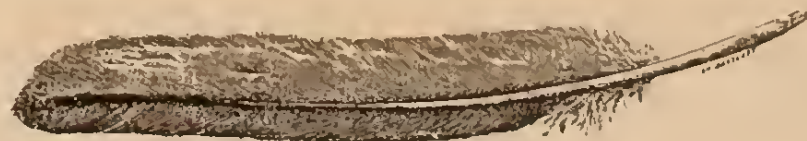
Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit www.potreroboosters.org or call President Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: February 28.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: February 26.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: February 2 and March 2

SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street, Rooms 2001-2003. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info. Next meeting: February 8.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: March 21. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: February 18 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0293. Call 810-4900 for more information.



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OP-ED: Helicopters on the Hill? Some Say "NO"

By Rochelle Kimball and Christopher Sabre

San Francisco General Hospital wants to build a helicopter landing pad on the roof of its main hospital building. The hospital has submitted its proposal for environmental review by the City Planning Department. This project is on a fast track, with the City scheduled to release a draft of an Environmental Impact Report followed by a final version in upcoming weeks. Neighbors and stakeholders complain that they have not been adequately informed or included in the planning process.

S.F. General's goal is to compete with other helipad hospitals for out-of-area patients. This will place a further drain on San Francisco's already overburdened emergency system. The University of California studies show that overcrowding forces SFGH to turn away an average of 35% of ambulances.

The hospital is planning for an ever-increasing use of helicopters at this proposed medical transportation hub. Helicopters are expected to land and take off daily at all hours. They will fly low over the Potrero Hill, Mission, Noe Valley and Bernal Heights districts as they approach the hospital.

Helicopters are dangerous, loud, and overused. Recent Stanford studies show 1/3 of emergency helicopter transports are not even admitted to a hospital. In the last two years, there have been crashes on or near helipads in the cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Cleveland and Olympia. Helicopters produce sound levels twice as loud as a jackhammer.

The use of a hospital heliport to shuttle patients between San Francisco General and other hospitals in the Bay Area and beyond to the Oregon border will place an excessive burden on emergency trauma services. San Francisco residents arrive at the hospital by ambulance, car or by walking in. History has shown that when services are diminished, those who can least afford it suffer the most.

Helicopters will increase overall health care costs. Each helicopter transport costs between \$5000 and \$15000.

There are a number of myths surrounding this proposal:

Myth: We need one because everyone else has one.

Fact: There are other trauma centers close by. Stanford Medical Center's Level I Trauma Center is eight air minutes from SFGH. Helicopters are dispatched from facilities in the East Bay - not from SFGH - thus adding an extra leg to each trip. In addition, UCSF has plans for a helicopter pad at their Mission Bay hospital 1.5 miles from SF General.

Myth: SFGH has a declining trauma admission rate. This places its Level I Trauma certification at risk and it will be unable to attract the best and the brightest staff.

Fact: The rate to trauma admissions is actually increasing. It has increased from 1200 to 1500 admissions per year in two years' time. SFGH's Trauma I unit was re-certified last year. The hospital's emergency room will remain open and its trauma center is not at risk without a helipad, as has been alleged.

Myth: We need to have a helipad at SFGH in case of a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

Fact: The greatest risk for natural disaster in this area is a major earthquake. The last place one would want to land a helicopter is atop a building after an earthquake. In case of a major disaster, plans are already in place to land helicopters in open areas near the hospital.

Myth: SF General needs a helipad to gain revenue.

Fact: There has never been a cost-benefit analysis done on this project.

Myth: Helicopters save lives.

Fact: Helicopters alone do not save lives. Indeed, they are being overused. A recent Brooke Army Medical Center study of 792 trauma patients transported by helicopter and ground ambulance concluded that there was no statistically significant difference between mortality rate in either group when compared with national mortality rates.

We all want to have the best possible trauma care available for ourselves, our families and for our fellow San Franciscans. A heliport in the densely populated neighborhoods near San Francisco General Hospital will not accomplish that end.

To get involved: visit: StopHelipad.org; and attend an informational meeting at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street, February 19, 2006, 2 p.m.

Rochelle Kimball and Christopher Sabre, longterm residents and activists of Bernal Heights and Potrero Hill.

From Sacramento and Your Neighborhood

by Mark Leno
Assemblyman, 13th District

Greetings Neighbors!

African-American History Month is a national observance in February that recognizes the tremendous contributions African-Americans have made to America. It began in 1926 with "Negro History Week," which was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a well-known African-American historian and educator. Dr. Woodson specifically chose it to occur during the month of February to coincide with the birthdays of two prominent men who shaped the lives of African-Americans—abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln. The week was changed to a month-long event in 1976, the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution.



Assemblyman Mark Leno

Today, National African-American History Month is observed all over America, as schools, churches and communities honor the leadership and extensive contributions that African-Americans have made to our society. African-American History Month allows us the opportunity to focus on learning and celebrating the lives and achievements of African-Americans, past and present. It also awakens our collective social conscience to the importance of giving our children a complete and accurate record of their country's history.

Today's schoolchildren are fortunate to be growing up with classrooms where a more complete and accurate record is taught. They can learn to appreciate all the many heroes of American history, such as the Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II fame. While previous generations were taught only *part* of our nation's history, today's students see a much more complete picture, one that includes learning about the many African-Americans whose lives have helped shape American history.

During February, we honor such outstanding African-Americans as:

- Mary McLeod Bethune, a leading political activist in the 1930s and 1940s
- Harriet Tubman, who led thousands of slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad

- Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who was the first African-American appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court and one of the plaintiff attorneys in the landmark case of *Brown v Board of Education*

- Jackie Robinson, who was the first African-American to play in the major leagues as a member of the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers.

- Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, who was the first physician to perform open-heart surgery

- Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina, who was the first African-American Member of Congress in 1870, and

- Shirley Chisholm, who was elected in 1968 and was the first African-American congresswoman in the country

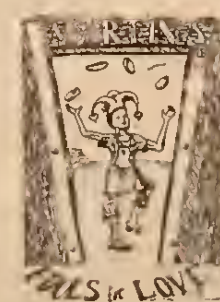
This month, we also pay tribute to the many African-American elected officials here in California. Today there are four African-Americans representing California in the U.S. Congress and six African-Americans in the California State Legislature, including former Lt. Governor Mervyn Dymally, who was the first African-American in California to serve in a statewide constitutional office. San Francisco's own Willie L. Brown, Jr. previously served as Speaker of the State Assembly, longer than any other person in history, and just finished eight years as Mayor of San Francisco. San Francisco also boasts California's first African-American District Attorney, Kamala Harris.

There are of course many others to list and discover. During this time, I encourage everyone to honor African-American History Month by taking the time to learn more about the history of African-Americans in our society. San Francisco's libraries will be holding various opportunities to celebrate the month. Find out more by visiting your local branch, calling 415-557-4400 or online at <http://sfpl.lib.ca.us>.

Another exciting new way to discover this history is through the recently opened Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD). MoAD is located at 685 Mission Street at 3rd, just south of Market Street and will be hosting numerous activities and events during February's month-long observation. I had the pleasure of recently attending the ribbon-cutting and inaugural tour of the museum and know that there is much to explore in our City's newest museum. You can find out more about MoAD by calling 415-358-7200 or through their website at <http://www.moadsf.org>.

During February's African-American History Month, we honor and pay homage to the rich tradition, culture, and leadership of the African-American community. I hope you will join me in the celebration.

To contact Assemblyman Mark Leno's San Francisco District Office call 415-557-3013 or e-mail him directly at Assemblymember.Leno@asm.ca.gov

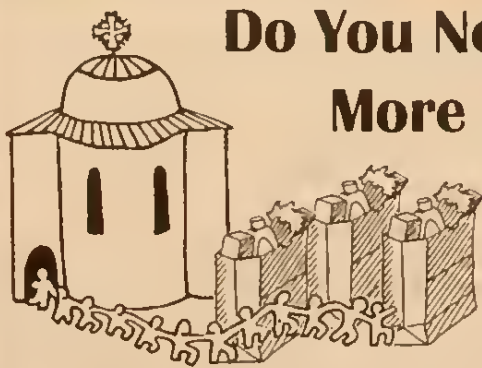


Help Feed the Hungry

Martin de Porres House of Hospitality,
225 Potrero Avenue (16th Street),
is in need of volunteers.

We serve free food daily—seasoned with beauty and loving kindness—to those in need, and we have fun doing it. Weekly or monthly, even for a few hours will be a great help. Please call 552-0240, ask for Jim or Charlie

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If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue, from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.

LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



ARTWORK FOR THE RENOVATED
BRANCH—AN UPDATE

As reported in the previous issue of *The View*, the first meeting of the seven-member Potrero Branch Community Artist Selection Panel took place in December. Four semifinalist artists were selected from a prequalified artist candidate pool: the artists are Seyed Alavi, Terry Hoff, Gina Telocci, and Faye Zhang. We now move to the next phase, where each of the four artists will prepare an information board that will be displayed at Potrero Branch, and members of the public (i.e., you, our library users) will have the chance to submit written responses and comments. The exhibit will run from Saturday, March 4 through Saturday, March 19 and can be viewed during the library's open hours. For additional information about this project, please contact Judy Moran, Arts Commission Public Art Project Manager, at 415-252-2586.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE
LIBRARY'S ARCHIVAL
COLLECTION

Just arrived in the library: videotaped recordings of the ever-popular annual "Potrero Hill History Night" program, ready for you to borrow and take home! We now have the tapes for 2003, 2004, and 2005, thanks to Peter Linenthal. Please note, videotapes for years 2000, 2001, and 2002 already are part of our collection. Stop by the library and check it out!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
LIBRARY'S ANNUAL ART SHOW

Planning has begun for the 51st Annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition, which will be held at the library on April 1-29, 2006.

Last year's exhibition was very well received and featured original artwork by over one hundred neighborhood artists. If you are a Potrero Hill resident and would like to volunteer and help in preparing for the exhibition, please contact me at the library at 415-355-2855.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS
FOR CHILDREN

Please come and join us! Storyteller Tureeda Mikell returns to Potrero Branch to present "African Folktales, Rhythm, Rap, and Rhyme" on Thursday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m. The program will be presented as part of San Francisco Public Library's Black History Month Celebration, and is funded by the Friends of the Library. For children of all ages.

Here's the lineup for our regular weekly and monthly programs:

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, February 16 and 23 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

Evening storytime on Tuesdays, February 7, 21, and 28 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 through 7.

Evening films on Tuesday, February 14 at 7 p.m.: "The Great White Man-Eating Shark", "A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog" and "Butterfly Ball." For ages 3 and older.

NOTE: for programs listed above, the programming room is not accessible by elevator. Also, please contact library staff in advance for group reservations.

Jensa Woo
Potrero Branch Library Manager

SFPUC Report

Potrero Heights Reservoir Work Begins

Demolition Work to Begin in February

The SFPUC's contractor, West Bay Builders, will begin demolition work on the existing tank at 22nd and Carolina Streets in February. In order to remove the tank, the contractor will have to cut it into pieces. First the contractor will remove paint from the tank at those places where a torch will be used to cut it into pieces. (After the paint removal, the tank will look like it has stripes.) The contractor will then remove the roof of the tank, cut it into pieces, and truck the remains of the tank away. This work should be completed in March.

Neighbors' Questions Answered at
Community Meeting

At a SFPUC meeting at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on January 10, information was provided to neighborhood residents about the upcoming reservoir work. The residents' questions and concerns included:

Lighting on Carolina Street. These are PG&E's streetlights. The SFPUC submitted an order to PG&E in July 2005 to install five streetlights and replace three streetlight arms. PG&E reports that this job is in engineering review and that construction should be scheduled soon.

Why demolish the old tank; it's a Potrero Hill icon. A 2003 study determined that the tank is a seismic hazard, which could overturn and slide in an earthquake. The

safest option is to demolish the old tank.

Why is the City's field trailer on Wisconsin Street? The SFPUC considered the location where 22nd Street dead-ends at Wisconsin, but we were told by the Fire Department that they use that area as a "standby" location for their fire trucks. Our trailer will be on the reservoir side of Wisconsin Street and will remove about five parking spaces during construction.

Why hasn't water pressure improved? The Water Department is proceeding cautiously with increasing water pressure in order not to damage existing services or fixtures. The SFPUC will continue to monitor pressures in the Potrero Hill area to determine how much water pressure can be increased safely.

"Peaker Plant" Project Moves Ahead

The City's "Peaker Plant" project is nearing the completion of environmental review by the California Energy Commission. The Commission estimates that they will be able to issue the "Final Staff Assessment" about mid-February. Final environmental certification could occur by May of this year. The City is continuing to monitor air quality in the area. This work is scheduled to continue through March.

Jim Marks is Coordinator of Citizen Involvement, Communications Division, S.F. Public Utilities Commission.



Rick Alena Photo

Handy Phone Numbers

Abandoned Cars	553-9817
Animal Care & Control	554-6364
Building Inspection Info	558-6088
Bus Shelter Repair & Cleaning	882-4949
Child Support Services	550-3304
DPW Services	28-CLEAN
Fraud Detail	553-1521
Garbage Pickup - Oversized Items	330-1300
Graffiti Hot-Line	241-WASH
Mobile Assistance Patrol	431-7400
Mobile Crisis Team (Mental Health)	255-3610
Muni Information	673-6864
Parking Enforcement	923-6164
Police - Bayview Station	671-2300
Potholes	695-2100
Potrero Library	355-2822
Rent Stabilization Board	252-4600
Street Construction Complaints	554-7222
Street Lighting Problems	554-0730
Supervisor Sophie Maxwell	554-7670
Tree Problems	695-2162
Towed Cars	553-1235

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Piero Patri Renowned SF Architect

by Lilan Patri and George Reyes



San Francisco lost one of its leading architectural planners with the death of Piero Patri on Saturday, January 14th. He had been ill for some time with ALS (Lou Gehrig's) disease. Up until a few months before his death, he was an active, senior partner of Patri.Merker.Associates, responsible for a number of major developments in the city.

The very day he died, mayor Newsom issued a commendation to Mr. Patri, expressing the city's gratitude for his bold vision, and for his many efforts during his career to advance the cause of exceptional architectural design and community planning in the City of San Francisco.

Piero Patri was born in San Francisco on October 7, 1929, three weeks before the Great Stock Market Crash.

His father, Giacomo Patri, was an Italian immigrant who became a noted San Francisco illustrator and art teacher, and in the 1950s opened his own art school to bring abstract art to working people.

His mother, Stella Nicole, was a French-Canadian, who became an internationally respected bookbinder, helping to restore books in Florence after the Arno River flood of 1966. Stella's first cousin was the late Vernon DeMars, a well-known Bay Area architect who was a co-founder of Telesis, an organization devoted to city planning. It was Vernon who first inspired Mr. Patri to a career of architecture, and taught him to design buildings that were aesthetically integrated with their surrounds. Coming under the shadow of the Great Depression, these influences produced in Mr. Patri an aes-

thetic and social conscience that determined much of his subsequent life as an architect.

After graduation from Tamalpais High School in Marin County, Mr. Patri began studying architecture at UC Berkeley in 1948, graduating Phi Beta Kappa with highest honors in 1955. His studies included a year at the Politecnico di Milano and another six months at the Scuola delle Belli Arti in Florence.

He then served in the U.S. Army in 1952-3, after which he went to work for Francis (Bud) Whisler who got him interested in adaptive re-use of historical buildings 1955. Even though he had studied architecture in Italy, it was Bud who got him interested in adaptive re-use of historical buildings in San Francisco.

Mr. Patri was licensed to practice architecture in 1958, and he joined his two brothers, architect Remo and landscape architect Tito, to form the firm Patri Patri Patri, (known as the "firm without the ampersand," which remained in business until 1963, when they joined with Bud Whisler and Bok Reitzel to form Whisler-Patri.

For their office, they converted an old brothel on Pacific Street, an early development that led to the revival of Jackson Square. After Whisler's retirement in 1985, the firm evolved with Dana Merker into Patri.Merker.Architects, but continued the philosophy of creating buildings and interiors as well as exterior spaces that fit comfortably into their environments, both in the form of new buildings and the renovation of old ones.

Notable work of both firms includes the planning of many early environmentally sensitive projects in Monterey county, the restoration of two villages in Guan that had been destroyed by typhoons, the new San Francisco Shopping Centre at 5th and Market, and Macy's on Union Square, as well as the Omni, Nikko and Marriott Courtyard hotels. Mr. Patri and his colleagues were some of the first to undertake adaptive re-use of older buildings, most notably the landmark Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Nob Hill and the Hills Plaza complex on Spear Street on the waterfront, turning the old Hills Brothers coffee roasting building into an office and condominium project, around plazas with retail shops.

Among more recent projects, Patri-Merker has been working to convert the landmark SF Old Mint at 5th and Mission Sts. into the official Museum of the History of the City of San Francisco, and are completing design work for a 32 story, 550 room Intercontinental Hotel on the parking lot at 5th and Howard.

Mr. Patri was also a pioneer in the

development of buildings that had all the infrastructure for information technology incorporated into their design. Under the National Academy of Sciences Building Research Council, he chaired two committees in Washington D.C. on what he called these "smart buildings."

Mr. Patri was made a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1985, and was appointed a member of the San Francisco Art Commission. In 2000 he was chair of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) Senior Housing Task Force.

He first became active in the predecessor organizations of SPUR in the mid-1950s, and in 2004 was presented with a Silver SPUR award for commitment to quality urban planning and architectural design. He was also active in architectural development in Asia, serving for many years as an active member of the Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development and of Lambda Alpha International, the Land Economics Society. Among his many other awards were a Distinguished Work and Achievement Award from the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Invaluable Service Award from the Urban Land Institute, and in December 2005, a Lifetime Achievement Award from Lambda Alpha, for his sustained contribution to our urban environment.

Throughout his career, Mr. Patri was active in a number of non-profit, charitable organizations, such as Pathways for Kids, Earthtrain, Operation USA, and the Bayview Opera House, in 2004 putting on a "Piero Do Good 75th" Birthday Party for their benefit. Tragically, several months before that event, he was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig disease). The disease progressed rapidly and impaired his ability to pursue with his usual energy the various projects that he had initiated. In the final year of his life he became particularly concerned with creating sensible housing for the elderly and disabled, especially those who, like himself, remain mentally active despite their infirmities, a concern that he hoped to realize in the proposal for the Terry Francois Parkway, an improved roadway along the southern and central waterfront linking the Embarcadero with Bayview/Hunters Point, thereby enhancing the economic development opportunities of the area.

He is survived by two brothers, Tito Patri of San Francisco, and Remo Patri, of Sonoma; a step-brother, Georges Reyes, of Washington DC; a nephew, Micha Patri of Berkeley; two nieces, Lilan Patri of New York City, and Andrea Patri of Sonoma; and a great-nephew, Giacomo Patri, also of Sonoma. A memorial service is being planned for May.

Legendary Jazz Trumpeter Robin Hodes

Widely respected trumpeter Robin Hodes died in the city on December 23, 2005 at the age of 79. He was born in Fremont, Ohio in 1926.

His professional career began in 1952, first in a weekend job near Woodstock, New York, then at Jimmy Ryan's on New York City's 52nd Street, with his own Red Onion Jazz Band. More than 50 years later, in 2005, Robin organized a reunion Red Onion gig in New York City. The survivors included former Louis Armstrong clarinetist Joe Muranyi, pianist Hank Ross and drummer/leader Bob Thompson.

Later in the 50s Robin – then known as Bob – joined Gene Mayl's Dixieland Rhythm Kings in Ohio. The band toured extensively in the United States and Canada, featuring other highly regarded musicians such as Bill Napier, Bob Mielke, Joe Darensbourg, Bill Young and Charles Sonnanstine.

Still later, Robin settled in San Francisco, where he played with many outstanding figures in traditional and mainstream jazz, including Kid Ory, Burt Bales, Pops Foster, Joe Dodge, Don Ewell, Bob Helm, and Frank Goudie. Robin was a longtime friend of New Orleans guitarist Danny Barker, and in 1985 they appeared together at the Monterey Jazz Festival along with legendary bassist Milt Hinton, pianist Doctor John and reedman Richard Hadlock (who also played in the 1952 Woodstock band). In addition Robin often returned to New York to play with another old friend, guitarist Dawes Thompson.

For the last ten years Robin led his own Apollo Jazz Group at Jelly's, Piet 50 in San Francisco. Over time the group included veteran trombonist Bill Bardin, pianist/arranger Alan Hall, bassist Peter Allen and many other Bay Area jazz musicians of note.

A painter as well, Hodes was a 25-year member of The Studio 13 Jazz Band (begun by Elmer Bischoff and David Park in the 40s) featuring artists-musicians of the San Francisco Art Institute, such as Richard Shaw, Wally Hedrick, and Willard (Mike) Dixon.

One of Hodes' friends, Bob Michaud, observes: "Robin's style was unique: after two or three notes you knew who was playing." Trombonist/journalist Jim Leigh recalls his former colleague as "one of the hottest pre-bop players in the Bay Area." And bassist Dan Keller says, "He was true to the music and true to his friends."

(Continued on Page 10)

DANCER EXTRODINAIRE - BELOVED TEACHER AND FRIEND TO MANY: MACLOVIA RUIZ MAILER

Maclovía Ruiz, the San Francisco girl who overcame humble beginnings and prejudice to become the first ethnic dancer in a major American ballet company and who ultimately snagged the lead role in Carmen at New York's Metropolitan Opera House, has died. She was 95.

Ms. Ruiz died New Year's Eve, 2005, after a brief illness.

Born in 1910 in Guadalajara, Mexico, Ms. Ruiz, the eldest of three sisters, moved to San Francisco as a child and was taught folk dancing by her father. Immediately taking a liking to it, the young Ms. Ruiz performed in neighborhood clubs, but she was repeatedly turned away from local dance schools because of her skin color.

At age 10, she was accepted at the Peters Wright Dance School in the city, where she studied interpretive dance, and she spent the next seven years studying under Lenore Peters Wright. She became part of the vaudeville circuit at age 15, which provided her with an outlet for her natural flair for drama.

At age 23, she auditioned for Adolph Bolm and became the first woman of color to gain entry into the San Francisco Ballet. She went on to star in ballets throughout the world, including the Metropolitan Opera Company and the American Ballet Company, where under the famed George Balanchine, she would star in the 1936 production of "Carmen."

(Continued on Page 10)



In Memoriam

RITA GIGLIO

1928 - 2006

Potrero Hill resident for over 30 years, Rita was a writer, published poet, political activist, jazz aficionado, and volunteer at Glide Church. Survived by daughters Lisa and Nina.

In Memoriam

LOUISE GILBERT

1913 - 2005

Longtime San Francisco artist and friend to many. John Connolly, Giacomo Patri and Milton Halberstadt were among those who were fortunate to have had her as a teacher at the California Labor School.

NURSERY SCHOOL HOSTS "SWING INTO SPRING" GALA



Mira, Zeke, and Brendan - students at Potrero Hill Nursery School - learn to prepare for guests at the March annual fund-raiser.

Don't let your spring come in like a lamb this year! "Swing into Spring" with the parents and Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School's fabulously festive fundraiser. You can dance to the rollicking good tunes of the Lipsey Mountain Spring Band, sample delicious hors d'oeuvres and libations from many fine neighborhood eateries and bid on an amazing selection of silent auction items like original art, massage, classes, vacation getaways and gift certificates to your favorite stores and restaurants. Your good time supports the teachers and students of Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School, which has been nurturing the community's children for over a decade. Inspired by the Waldorf tradition and operating as a non-profit organization, this imaginative and intimate school welcomes all students on a sliding scale basis. This important and fun-filled event takes place at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 953 DeHaro St. on Saturday, March 11 from 7 - 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door. Support your community school on "the hill" and experience a "night out on the town" that you won't soon forget! For tickets or more information about Swing into Spring call 415-643-8168 or 415-647-7471 or email yogateddy@yahoo.com

Free Energy-Saving Devices Bring Lower Costs and Peace of Mind to Underserved Neighborhoods

By Clifford Agocs

Special to the Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

Before outdoor motion-sensing lights were installed at Lisa Anderson's Visitation Valley home she left her front and back porch lights on all night long. "I didn't like sleeping where it was dark." In 2004 Anderson became one of the more than 11 thousand homes or small businesses located in hard-pressed San Francisco neighborhoods to receive free energy-saving devices. Under the program, which was funded by the California Public Utility Commission and implemented by San Francisco Community Power, Anderson was provided with two outdoor motion fixtures for free. "I feel pretty safe with them," she says of the lights, "and at the same time they're saving me money."

According to Paul Liotsakis, SF Power's Associate Director, over the course of the two-year program the non-profit has given away or installed 20,000 energy efficient light bulbs, 15,000 motion sensor lights, and almost 1,500 programmable thermostats. The devices have a retail value ranging from \$4 to \$40, and are available to homes and small businesses located in the Bay View-Hunters Point, Bernal Heights, Mission, Potrero, Tenderloin, South-of-Market and Visitation Valley neighborhoods. The program closes this March.

Distributing and installing the devices involved hiring residents from the six communities being served who were capable of speaking four different languages. Bill Yuen, also a Visitation Valley resident, was one of thirty San Franciscans employed to install the devices for his neighbors.

Yuen has worked for the program since it was launched in 2004. He speaks in Mandarin and English as he answers questions from people passing by the SF Power table he periodically staffs at the Alemany Farmers Market. Blake, a Mission resident, picks-up an indoor sensor; he says he'll install it in his laundry room. "We're always going in and out of there with our hands full," he says motioning to the toddler who races ahead of him.

The goal of the \$800,000 program is to help small businesses, low-income families, renters, and people who speak English as a second language lower their energy bills. The funds were generated through a small charge on utility bills. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is responsible for ensuring that all items are distributed and installed properly, and that they achieve their intended energy-savings.

According to Catie McGee, SF Power's Project Manager, the non-profit was able to increase its distribution goals by 20 percent midway through the project as a result of cost-savings achieved through bulk purchases. McGee says that the program has already garnered more

than a 3 million kilowatt hour reduction in energy use, generating more than \$300,000 in annual savings for its recipients.

SF Power began operation in 2001 with funding from the San Francisco Department of the Environment. Its original mission was to serve the Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero neighborhoods as part of efforts to close the Hunters Point and Potrero Power Plants. In 2004 it expanded to other communities. "Our goal is to reach those who need to lower their energy bills," says McGee. "That way there will be less demand for the power plants, allowing them to be closed."

SF Power is also interested in using its energy saving initiatives to improve local economies. "Our goal was to work within the community," said McGee. Hiring installers from the neighborhoods being served helped reduce language barriers and bolstered confidence in the program. And the outdoor motion sensors brought an unanticipated public safety benefit. "We get so many people calling and talking about their personal safety and saying 'we're glad to have a light outside.' It was a real surprise."

A year ago when Anderson received a letter offering free installation of motion sensor lights, she says, "I noticed that not too many people had them. Now a majority do." The neighborhood feels safer and Anderson saves money on her energy bill. She's also sleeping better at night.

Pelosi - Congress Must Reform

(Continued From Page 2)

Ranking Members of the intelligence committees is made available to every committee member, and to better ensure that information provided to Congress by intelligence agencies is complete and candid.

So far no action has been taken. Until we ensure that Congress can conduct thorough oversight, consistent with our constitutional responsibilities, we will not have honored our responsibility to protect the American people.

We all recognize that our efforts against terrorism or other threats require new, more flexible approaches. But in a democracy, those approaches cannot be fashioned unilaterally by an administration with a disturbingly expansive view of the powers of the president.

Contact Nancy Pelosi's S.F. District Office at 415-556-4865 or email her directly at sf.nancy@mail.house.gov



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CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

"River of Words: Katrina's Children"

Poetry and art by the children of the Gulf Coast takes center stage at the Crissy Field Center as River of Words honors the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

Over the years, the annual River of Words children's environmental art and poetry contest has received many poems and works of art from children in the region devastated by Katrina.

Now, this unprecedented collection has been brought together for a special showing at San Francisco's Crissy Field Center. The exhibition will also include information about the connections between storm damage and wetlands destruction.

The show runs through March 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crissy Field Center is located at 603 Mason (at Halleck) in the Presidio of San Francisco.

For more program information and registration call 415-561-7752 or visit Crissyfield.org.

Hill Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

Bianca Ortiz, secretary at Daniel Webster Elementary's Child Development Center, started to get the word out on December 10, in an email that gives some idea of the incompetence and secrecy layered throughout the SFUSD's operations: "Originally the plan was to merge the 150 students from Starr King to Daniel Webster since we have enough room to accommodate these numbers. The district informed the parents that Daniel Webster was a site for a potential merger and our school was removed from the primary list of possible closures. However, that plan was scrapped and now the district intends on moving the 250 Webster students to Starr King at the end of the school year. The district has not given this information to the media nor the parents so we, the workers of Daniel Webster, have been scrambling to inform the families of 250 students as well as the community," Ortiz said.

An ad hoc community organization quickly grew to protest the closings and mergers, with many volunteers from the 200 members of the Potrero Hill Parents Association, some coaching and influence from former San Francisco Mayor and Connecticut Street resident Art Agnos, and support from the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, and the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses.

Mike Lin, of the blog potrerohillsf.com, created a website for the effort to save Daniel Webster Elementary, and gathered demographic data and support letters from local and state politicians. The media-savvy campaign gained supporters citywide, and the unanimous Board of Education vote to remove Daniel Webster and Starr King from the merger list was peppered with compliments and congratulations from the board to the Potrero Hill parents.

But just before the vote on Daniel Webster and Starr King, the Board of Education responded to another wave of public pressure with head-slapping ignorance. After hearing numerous complaints about the wisdom of merging Enola Maxwell Middle School, with students as young as 12 years old, and the late-teenagers of International Studies Academy High School, the board decided to move ISA to Maxwell . . . and close Maxwell Middle School at the end of this year, with no community process or public comment on the decision.

School Board Commissioner Dan Kelly introduced the surprising move to change the proposal to merge International Studies Academy and Maxwell Middle School into a closure of Maxwell and a move of ISA. As a school with very low enrollment, and with no prior notice to its community of a possible closure, Maxwell Middle School had no chance of survival, and the change was approved by the board.

The January 19 Board of Education meeting began with an hour and a half of public comment, with speaker after speaker assailing the district for failing to address neighborhood concerns and the public in its consideration of school closures. In fact, the meeting was a continuation of another BOE meeting the week before, with four hours of similarly enraged public comment from all the communities affected by the closure list. Ultimately, those hundreds of speakers, many of whom were getting their first look of one of the City's most dysfunctional bureaucracies, were ignored as the school board began its procession of votes.

Commissioner Mark Sanchez made a last effort to delay the school closures, acknowledging a late effort by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi to loan city funds to the district, and noting that the district has a

Stakeholders Attempt to Balance Diverse Goals in S.F.'s Eastern Neighborhoods

By Alison Fromme
Special to the Neighborhood
Environmental Newswire

San Francisco expects to add another almost 80,000 residents over the next two decades, enough new inhabitants to populate a medium-sized town. Many, perhaps most, of these newcomers will be drawn to the City's eastern neighborhoods — Bayview-Hunters Point, Mission, Potrero, and South-of-Market. The anticipated population increase, coupled with broad land use policy changes, will soon determine the future of these once predominately blue-collar, mixed-use and demographically diverse communities.

Affordable Housing a Pressing Concern

In a City with the highest housing prices in the country, there's steady pressure on local officials to create affordable homes. In 2004, the median price of a three bedroom San Francisco house was \$730,000—a luxury for which a family of four, earning upwards of \$120,000 would have trouble paying.

And many Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero Hill residents barely make their monthly rents, with little hope of ever owning their own home. About 46 percent of community residents live in State of California-defined poverty.

Between 2001 and 2004, just 2,284 affordable housing units were constructed in San Francisco. About 10 percent of these new homes were located in Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero Hill, roughly equal to the district's share of total City population. But, chances are, that greater amounts of affordable housing will be built in the eastern neighborhoods in the coming years.

Mark Klaiman, owner of Pet Camp, a Bayview-based animal boarding facility, agrees that the City needs more affordable housing, but questions whether it should be concentrated in the eastern neighborhoods. Klaiman is also concerned that an over-emphasis on housing will drive out the City's remaining "blue collar" businesses.

Many Potrero Hill residents are concerned that growth will disrupt their neighborhood's existing qualities. In a recent survey, residents cited "development" as the second most serious community

issue, after crime. Eighty percent of the survey respondents wanted to preserve Potrero Hill's "character," and believed the neighborhood needed expanded green space and larger commercial areas.

"Projects here have been approved on a project by project basis without consideration of proper transit and parking issues," according to Kepa Askenasy, a Potrero Hill resident and the survey's sponsor. "So we have an overflow of cars parked on the street, and gridlock along 16th Street at rush hour."

Ideally, Askenasy says, Potrero Hill development would include an expansion of current businesses and two to three-unit housing options. The community's current density, she says, is about 35 units per acre; projects proposed by developers reach as high as 100 units per acre. Such a substantial increase would make the Hill's density more comparable to North Beach and Russian Hill.

Pushing out businesses such as Parisian Bakery and Potrero Gardens to make room for high-priced condos doesn't make sense, says Askenasy. The rest of the City depends on services and products created in Bayview and Potrero. The beautiful iron works adorning Pacific Heights' homes, the top Ferrari mechanic, and the City's signature beer, Anchor Steam, are all made in eastern San Francisco. "Without these City services, we'd have to drive out to San Leandro for them," Askenasy says.

"We need to strike a balance between services needed by people and housing," says Klaiman, pointing out that taxis are one important city service that requires industrial land for parking and maintenance. "Companies that play by the rules should be treated well," he says, and not have to worry about being pushed out by changing land use laws.

Changing Landscapes

As any Californian knows, change is inevitable. The Third Street Light Rail will bring new transit and land use patterns that will ripple throughout the surrounding neighborhoods, as will the development of Pier 70 and the Hunters Point Shipyard. The question is how best to choose among a variety of futures. To that end several legislative and regulatory efforts are underway to alter San Francisco's land use decision-making

process and outcomes.

One of the most significant policy tools to control development is through "zoning," which defines how an individual parcel can be developed, whether it's for high-density housing or industrial uses. An effort to re-define how best to zone the eastern neighborhoods has been underway since 2003. The current proposal includes three options, with varying degrees of change for the Central Waterfront, the Mission, Showplace Square, and Eastern SoMa.

The most conservative option would retain much of the current zoning that allows light industry, such as repair shops, design studios, concrete works, and catering businesses to remain in the area. On the other extreme, more land would be converted to residential uses. The plan would also increase height and size restrictions in many areas.

The Better Neighborhoods Plus legislation is another effort to address concerns that community values be reflected in new developments. Sponsored by Supervisors Jake McGoldrick and Sophie Maxwell, Better Neighborhoods Plus would require community input and consultation with City agencies before large construction projects are approved. The legislation was created with input from more than 30 individuals and groups, including the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, Housing Action Coalition, and San Francisco Urban Planning and Research (see "Neighborhood Planning Improvements Proposed," at www.neighborhoodnewswire.com).

Long-range community planning and evaluation of each neighborhood's unique role in the City are important, according to City planner Jasper Rubin. Such efforts will help avoid "hotspots for a hodgepodge of development." Development will bring change, Rubin says, but that change should be guided in ways that will enhance the quality of City living.

For more information, visit the San Francisco Planning Department's website (http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp) and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's website (http://www.sfgov.org/site/sfra_index.asp).

This is the first of a series of three articles focusing on land use changes in San Francisco's eastern neighborhoods.

history of poor support of schools on the eastern half of the city: "African American families have felt these cuts more than any other community, Sanchez said. "We're going to burden them again if we close more schools. Are we going to balance our budget again on the backs of these families? I don't think that's right." Sanchez's proposal to postpone the school closures received a standing ovation from the public, but failed on a 6-1 vote.

Commissioner Dan Kelly responded to Sanchez by acknowledging that "We have always had small public schools in San Francisco. It's one of the attractions of the city." Then he said that we can't afford them, and like the rest of the board, he voted accordingly.

In response to the flood of criticism that public input on school closure decisions was inadequate, Board of Education commissioners Mark Sanchez, Norman Yee and Sarah Lipson introduced a resolution at their meeting of January 24 to create a long-term plan for addressing declining enrollment and funding cuts by the state government. Speakers at the meeting cheered the proposal and the move toward more community involvement. However,

many elements of the proposal were discussed last year, after last spring's similar — and similarly embarrassing — series of school closures. Then as now, no such process has begun.

"The process for community involvement in this crisis is dramatically flawed," says Jennifer Betti, one of the Hill parents leading the community efforts. "That is why our group is trying to organize to not only support Daniel Webster, but we're also staying involved in the big picture. We're working with families across the city so that we never have to go through this again. "Sometimes it takes a crisis to create momentum," she said.

The Potrero Hill parents behind the saving of the elementary schools are already planning next steps for supporting neighborhood public schools. Those steps are likely to include:

A victory party for current and future Webster and Starr King staff and families, Potrero residents and merchants

- Volunteers in the classroom
- Tours of neighborhood schools
- Preschool research and development (with a goal to open a preschool in September 2006)

- Program research and development
- They can be contacted through their website, www.savewebster.com.

Tony Kelly is a Potrero Hill resident, President of the Boosters Association and served on the Site Council of Enola D. Maxwell Middle school in 2004-2005



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Area Planning Restarted - Again

By Joe Boss

The San Francisco Planning Department once again is in the process of re-zoning the "Eastern Neighborhoods," with citizen workshops scheduled to begin February 23rd (details below). This time it seems that the planning will be completed. In 2000, the City started rezoning for the Central Waterfront, bounded by Mariposa Street on the north, Islais Creek on the south, between Highway 280 and the Bay. They never completed the work. Then they began to re-zone the Eastern Neighborhoods in 2002, which includes Showplace Square and Potrero Hill, but never finished that project, either.

In 2004, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, responding to the Planning Department's inability to complete re-zoning, placed "Interim Controls" on the Showplace and Potrero Hill area, to slow inappropriate development projects until area-wide rezoning was completed. Under the leadership of Planning Director Dean Macris, invited by Mayor Newsom to return to the job after a 12-year retirement, the much needed rezoning should soon be completed. Macris first commissioned a study of the future needs for light industrial, known as "Production, Distribution and Repair" (PDR). He updated and published the Commerce And Industry Inventory Report for the first time in years, and he has initiated the scoping of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) necessary to move re-zoning to a conclusion.

Supervisor Maxwell convened a Bioscience Task Force to look at the impacts, concerns, and desirability of having the "new science" located in the area, and a "Back Streets Advisory Committee" to look at the importance and desirability of maintaining the many small businesses that support our resident and business needs citywide. Both of these citizen groups have generated reports and recommendations to help the City planners achieve a workable re-zoning program.

Supervisor Maxwell also co-sponsored legislation called the "Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process" commonly referred to as "Better

Neighborhoods Plus," that is due for adoption in February. The legislation guides the Planning Department in a very robust process that will be utilized in these re-zoning programs. What does make this Ordinance unique is that instead of just directing the Planning Department to do planning that includes the voice of local citizens, it mandates the inclusion of the other City Agencies (Parking and Traffic, MUNI, Rec and Park, the SF Public Utilities, Police and Fire, etc.) in the on-going process. It prescribes the Planners to undertake "needs analysis" for an area before the rezoning takes place, and then to consider the impacts caused by those changes, so that when a plan is completed, there is a map in place to take care of those needs.

The Ordinance has received some negative comments from the west side of the City, from those fearing it will take away their ability to file Discretionary Reviews, or that it allows the Planning Department to initiate new area planning in their neighborhoods. According to Supervisor Maxwell, neither fear is true. These well-intentioned citizens miss the most important part of the legislation - the early participation of local stakeholders in the process and the ability of those citizens to say they do not want rezoning. Most critical to the Potrero Hill area is the mandating of impact fees to be paid by new developments to fund MUNI and utility improvements and additional open space and parks. The thorough planning process also identifies existing shortfalls in the area and develops ways of correcting those shortfalls.

Workshops will be held from 6 - 8 p.m. at the California College of Art, 1111 8th Street at Irwin. The Central Waterfront area review will be February 23rd. Showplace Square and Lower Potrero Hill is scheduled for March 1st. Workshops for Other Eastern Neighborhoods are also being planned. There is a wealth of information regarding the reports and the planning process underway posted on the Planning Department's Web site: (http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp). For details call Jasper Rubin at City Planning 415-558-6310 or email (jasper_rubin@ci.sf.ca.us)



WHAT'S GOING UP?

Here is a summary of new construction projects on and around the Hill.

450 Rhode Island at 17th Street
 Formerly S&C Ford
 Cannon Constructors
 168 Apartments/Condominiums
 35,000 Sq Ft Whole Food Grocery Store
 Status: Foundation work is well underway, with the first floor of parking completed
 Scheduled completion March 2007

2190 Third Street at 19th Street
 Harry Low
 18 3-bedroom rental apartments
 4,800 square feet ground floor commercial
 Scheduled completion December 2006

1000 16th Street and Daggett Place
 Cherokee Investment Partners
 Preliminary Planning for .8 acres public open space, 400 residential units
 14,000 square feet retail, 22,000 square feet PDR
 Status: Environmental remediation & Mission Bay fill removal underway
 Remediation completion in April 2006

601 King Street at 7th Street
 South of the Baker Hamilton Building
 A.F. Evans Co
 250 apartments/condominiums
 6,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space
 Status: Environmental remediation and pile driving completed
 Scheduled completion August 2007

25 Sierra at Texas
 RAM Development
 67 residential condominiums
 4 2,000 square foot ground floor commercial units
 Scheduled completion April 2006

675 Townsend Street at 8th Street
 De Anza Properties
 148- Residential rental units
 35,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail and showroom space
 Bakery-coffee shop, restaurant, furniture and floor cover showrooms
 Scheduled completion in April 2006



Performing Arts Roundup

By Julia Segrove

DICK 'N DUBYA SHOW

The Marsh proudly presents Ed Holmes and Amos Glick in *The Dick 'n Dubya Show: A Republican Outreach Cabaret*, a hilarious mix of political insight and obfuscation presented in song and dance. Directed by Duck's Breath Mystery Theater's Bill Allard, the performance plays Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., February 2-25 at the Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia St. Fresh from an extremely successful run at The Marsh Berkeley, the show is full of singing, dancing, speeches, and a raucous press conference where the audience asks the questions. Good luck, Dubya. Tickets run from \$10-\$15 (sliding scale) and available at www.themarsh.org or call 800-838-3006.

RICK REYNOLDS CONFESSIONAL

In February The Marsh also presents a workshop version of Rick Reynolds' new one-man show, *Happiness*, a third look back into Reynolds' troubled past where he tries to uncover the secrets to becoming a truly happy person. A heartwarming, heartbreaking and extremely funny confessional, *Happiness* plays from February 4 through March 12 at The Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia Street. Tickets run from \$15-\$22 and can be purchased at Brown Paper Tickets, 800-838-3006 or visit www.themarsh.org.

8th ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

The 8th Annual SF IndieFest, a world-wide blend of more than 100 independent films and videos, unspools February 2 through February 14 at three Bay Area venues: Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street; Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street, and The Women's Building Auditorium, 3543 18th Street. Tickets are \$10 for each screening, \$8 for matinees, \$25 for Opening Night and \$15 for Closing Night.

This year's line up includes something for everyone, a delicious smorgasbord of drama, comedy, romance, sci-fi, horror, documentary and animation. Highlights include fifteen world premieres, including Jonathan Schroder and Randall Rubin's *Jimmy and Judy*, a tale of two doomed lovers on the highway to hell, starring Edward Furlong and Rachael Bella; John Daniel Gavin's *Johnny Montana*, an entertaining yarn about a young man attempting to escape his dull life in Brooklyn; Gregory Hatanaka's *Mad Cowgirl*, a sordid pulp action drama about the proverbial "drug deal gone wrong," and Sacramento native Michael Carroll's feature film debut *YEAR*, which documents 365 days in the life of four adult sisters with a dying mother. Documentary fare includes Jennifer Brett Winston's *Fisher Poets*, a look at poets

and performance artists who also happen to be fishermen; Gregg Gibb's *The Treasures of Long Gone John*, an examination of a famous record label (Symphony for the Record Industry) founder and constant hipster. A major local premiere and special presentation is SRL LOVES L.A., which screens at the Women's Building on February 10, at 9:30 p.m. Directed and shot by local director/cinematographer Dave Scardina and edited by Mark Pauline, the film documents an ear drum shattering performance from San Francisco's premier robotic troupe Survival Research Laboratories (SRL). A question and answer session with Mark Pauline follows the screening. For tickets and more info, call 415-820-3907.

POPULAR LESBIAN SHOW RETURNS TO THEATRE RHINOCEROS

Last year's hit lesbian one-act play *Take Me For a RideScute girl!* has been expanded to a full-length production to take audience members behind the scenes of an all-girl show at the world's longest running Queer Theatre. In the expanded version you'll see what really happens backstage and during rehearsals, at the bars, and in a couple of bathrooms. Written by Karole Langlois and directed by Melissa Osoke, *Take Me For a RideScute girl!*, features Holly Chou, Karole Langlois, Natalia Miner, Heather O'Brien and Kathy Rentschler, and runs through February 25, at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Showtimes are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25. For reservations and more info, call 415-861-5079 or go to www.TheRhino.org.

MARGA GOMEZ'S LATEST SOLO PLAY

Another San Francisco favorite, Marga Gomez, performs a solo play, *Los Big Names Unplugged*, for seven shows only, from February 20 through March 1. Gomez's latest one woman show is a loving and lethal tour-de-force tribute to Marga's show-biz parents, Willy Chevalier and Margarita.

A back-stage baby, Marga's family of three had one dream: to own a swimming pool, win awards, sleep late, be desired by all and known across America and internationally as Los Big Names. Channeling a star studded cast of characters including Queen Latifah and Kathleen Turner, Marga jets from bygone Teatros of New York to the Hollywood of the 90s in this hilarious, poignant and explosive Latino family saga. In April, Gomez will open the play Off-Broadway at the 47th St. Theatre in New York. For more info and tickets, call 800-838-3006 or visit The Marsh website at www.themarsh.org.

2006 BLACK CHOREGRAPHERS FESTIVAL AT PROJECT ARTAUD

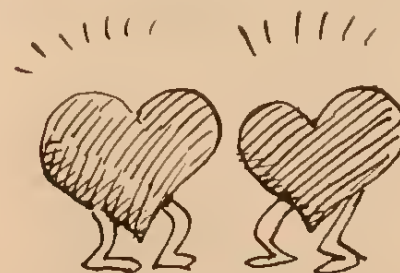


After a ten year absence, the celebration of black dance in its many forms of expression and many spheres of influence, the 2006 Black Choreographers Festival will return to stage at the Project Artaud Theatre, 450 Florida St @ 17th Street, from Friday, February 10 through Sunday, February 12. A co-production of African and African-American Performing Arts Coalition and K*Star*Productions, The 2006 Black Choreographers Festival features a wide range of dance productions, master classes, showcasing of emerging talent, films, exhibits, and symposia. Performances include choreographers Joanna Haigood (Aerial Dance), Robert Moses (Modern), Chloe Arnold (Rhythm Tap) Kim Sims-Battiste/Culture Shock Oakland (Hip-Hop), Deborah Vaughan/Dimensions Dance Theater (Traditional/Modern), and emerging artists Paco Gomes and Susan Voyticky. A post-performance curtain talk with performers will follow the February 12 performance. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$15 for students and seniors. For tickets, call the ODC Theater Box Office, 415-863-9834 or go online at www.odctheater.org.

LUMA THEATER AT THE VICTORIA



LUMA takes the light show off the screen and makes it a three dimensional experience on stage and in the house. Using various physical disciplines and all manner of High-Tech illuminated objects to create a *Techno-Circus* that is born in the shadows. Audiences watch luminous illusions that are beautiful and awe-inspiring. LUMA embraces all light, Natural, Artificial and Metaphorical and depicts everything from fireflies to shooting stars, carnival rides to screensavers, the Aurora Borealis to the body electric. There are many other fantastic visual effects that elude description. Under the direction of Martin, LUMA's Artistic Director, LUMA's forthcoming, limited engagement will perform at Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street, from February 3-19, with easy parking and a range of show times and matinees.



— VALENTINE'S DAY —

MARDI GRAS - FEB. 27



SHROVE TUESDAY — FEB. 27TH

Maclovía Ruiz

(Continued from Page 5)
She also performed in Samuel Goldwyn's musical extravaganza "The Goldwyn Follies."

Throughout her years, Ms. Ruiz danced in operas and nightclubs, and she mastered the art of Spanish dance, including flamenco, which she performed throughout Central and South America. She also occasionally performed with her sister Carmen Ruiz.

In the 1940s, she joined the USO and performed with notables such as Jose Greco and Pilar Lopez at the Hollywood Bowl. Her later career, in the 1940s and 1950s, focused on flamenco dance, and her abilities would take her as far away as Spain.

Her wide-ranging career teamed her up with everyone from Jeanette MacDonald to Nelson Eddy. And she had the reviews to prove her star power.

In 1938, the New York Sun called her a "well-trained and vivid dancer." And, in 1943 one San Francisco Examiner critic called her "the greatest Flamenco dancer of today," while another said it was "impossible to find a more brilliant and magnetic last act solo dancer than Maclovía Ruiz."

In 1948, she met her future husband, photographer John Mailer, during a performance in Montreal. She married the young Canadian, and they briefly moved to Hawaii, but the couple decided to return to San Francisco. The two would have one son but divorced in 1953 after five years of marriage.

Ms. Ruiz never remarried, but she continued to dance, even long after her professional career ended. She taught ballroom dancing and coached up and coming Spanish and Flamenco dancers, continuing to dance well into her 70s.

She also taught movement to disabled people at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House until the late 1990s. And when some of the seniors there seemed a little

disdainful of their disabled counterparts, Ms. Ruiz again broke the barriers of prejudice, teaching them kindness and tolerance.

"She was incredible with our clients," said Lori Jean Robinson-Hatten, a former director of the Potrero Hill center. "What was so beautiful about her was she brought a better understanding of people. She was loved by everybody."

In 1997, Ms. Ruiz also won a certificate of honor from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for "public recognition of outstanding service to the City and County of San Francisco." Robinson-Hatten, herself a dancer who met Ms. Ruiz in 1984, said Ms. Ruiz brushed off her fame, and even her struggle to overcome racism, saying it was "another lifetime ago." "She would push it aside ... in a humble way," said Robinson-Hatten.

Sara de Luis, who studied Spanish dance with Ms. Ruiz as a teenager, called her breathtaking on stage. Later, de Luis choreographed a special routine devoted to Spanish dancers of the golden age, and she considered Ms. Ruiz among them.

"She was an incredible presence on the stage," said de Luis, who lives in Seattle but has traveled worldwide as a Spanish dancer. "She was a very theatrical person, and that's who she was. Not all Spanish dancers have that." "She was one of the greats."

Ms. Ruiz is survived by her son, Michael Mailer, and his wife, Woujie, of Pinole.

A private burial at sea is being planned by the family, and a remembrance of her life will be announced at a later date.

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.SUNNYSIDE.

Horn Player Hodes

(Continued from Page 5)

Devoted to the music and sound of Louis Armstrong, Robin Hodes also expanded his range to include some aspects of mainstream trumpeters Joe Thomas and early Miles Davis.

He is survived by his wife Sally Goodwin of San Francisco; daughters Liberty Valance, Weehawken, N.J., and Amanda Barbieri, Petaluma; granddaughters Ashley and Heather Barbieri, Petaluma; and brother Philip Hodes, Lakeville, Florida.

A memorial gathering is planned for February 18, 2006, 4 – 8 p.m. at Jelly's. For a website honoring Robin go to <http://www.keller.com/robin>.





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4-Star Video	Peter Linenthal and Abigail Johnston	
Frames on 3rd	Potrero Chiropractors: A Wellness Center	
Goathill Pizza	Ramp Restaurant	
Good Life Grocery	San Francisco Community Power	
Hazel's Kitchen	Sundance Coffee	A Special thanks to the speakers and presenters: Supervisor Sophie Maxwell Marshall Foster, City Greening Jane Martin, Plant S.F. Jasper Rubins, S.F. Planning Dept. Isabelle Wade, Neighborhood Parks Council
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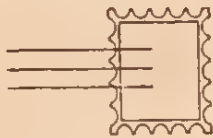
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Welcome
S.P.R.I.N.G!

On the Waterfront

By John H. Super

At the foot of Potrero Hill lies Mission Bay. A great new neighborhood. It sits squarely on top of what once was a bay and wetlands. You all know the history of SF and so I will not state it again. Enough to point out that SF was once a thriving seaport. Conditions have changed and we have a mostly "dead" City shoreline. Why not use this shoreline to create places for kids and small dogs to go down and get their feet wet? Some fishing piers? How about a swimming beach or two? The water is nice. Even sort of warm in the summer.

The weather on the eastern side of our City is usually warm and sunny unlike the freezing western sands. Wonderful conditions for a few beaches. Instead of concrete walls that go right to the water's edge creating a barrier, why not soft shores?

Some landing spots for pleasure craft would be great. At the present there is slight public access in half a dozen places

from SBC Park to Hunters Point. There is room for lots more. The Bay Trail on the shoreline - and its counterpart the water trail with access points - is a good start in this direction but I think we should demand more from our City Leaders.

Local nautical news...the Port is finally starting to move forward on their plan to replace the ancient public launch ramp at the foot of Pier 54 with a newer two lane ramp. Like the old ramp, there will be no cost to launch boats and park in the lot adjacent to the ramp. This is the only place in the city to put a boat in the water and the only one north of South San Francisco. The Embarcadero Rowing Club is always looking for a few "good hands" - they row their whaleboat out of the Ramp and practice several times a week. With crews of all women, all men, and a mixed division their boat is in fairly constant use. They win races too. To give rowing a try check their web site at www.rowrenegade.org. Potrero Hill's famous Anchor Brewing Company sponsors the boat

The Lure of the Wine Country

By Chuck Elkind

San Franciscans have long rated the wine country as a favorite getaway. But before World War II, with far fewer vineyards than there are now, other locales successfully lured city folk northward.

The choices were wide and varied: There was the funky charm of St. Helena's shops and eateries ... Russian River where summer romances flourished ... Sebastopol, where apple lovers happily munched on the addictive Gravenstein crop ... Glen Ellen attracted Jack London aficionados to his hauntingly serene museum ... and health zealots flocked to Calistoga's pungent sulfur baths.

Another attraction was Petaluma whose vast population of yattering chickens annually laid eggs in the millions. Trucks daily left "The world's egg basket" fully loaded with "cackleberries" for consumers in the Bay Area and elsewhere.

In the hard times of the 1930s, the versatile egg was many families' dietary bulwark, being highly valued for the nutritional value. There was little awareness, however, of Cholesterol, a word that occurred only in crossword puzzles and in school spelling bees.

Families were forever on the lookout for recipes that would give a new spin: they bravely experimented with plates like Hungarian egg salad, cheese elephant ears, Huevos Rancheros, and Egg Foo Yung.

But pity the school brown-baggers who endured butter-soaked omelets shoveled between thick slices of bread. Eaten cold four hours later, at lunch-time, the sandwiches initiated the youngsters into the anguished realm of heartburn.

Unsubstantiated powers were assigned to eggs. Some consumers were convinced that raw eggs were an aphrodisiac. Others insisted that two raw eggs in a mug of beer could tame any hangover.

There even was a best-selling book and movie, *The Egg and I*, that dealt with the complexities and frustrations of city folk-turned-chicken farmers. Indeed, such problems finally forced chicken ranching out of Petaluma and into other U.S. areas in the years after World War II.

In the aftermath, Petaluma has morphed radically from its poultry fame into a haven for San Francisco commuters as well as the venue of the Annual World's Wrist Wrestling Championship.

Chuck Elkind is an occasional correspondent with focus on "yesteryears."

BEFORE THE REMOTE CONTROL



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ACTCM offers Clinical Doctorate Program in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

The American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine is pleased to announce the approval of its first clinical doctoral program in acupuncture and Oriental medicine. The program has been approved by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE), and the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), the only accreditation commission in the field of TCM recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The program, which is set to begin at the college's San Francisco campus in October of 2006, will emphasize integrated medicine and offer two tracks of specialization: pain management and women's health.

ACTCM's doctoral clinical training will utilize an integrated team approach consisting of traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and biomedical health care providers using case-based teaching methodologies and grand rounds presentations. This approach will provide an environment that encourages collaborative interaction among different medical providers, as well as access to practitioners with expertise in the two specialties.

In addition to its own clinical facilities, the ACTCM doctoral program will provide clinical training at several off-site clinics, including the University of

California San Francisco's Osher Center for Integrated Medicine and California Pacific Medical Center. ACTCM's clinical component will also include student capstone projects that will contribute to the knowledge base of the profession and be published by the college.

ACTCM's doctoral faculty features renowned experts from around the globe including the U.S. and Shanghai, China. Students will have the opportunity for intensive clinical practice in his/her area of specialization in China at the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine or in the United States at one of several collaborative clinics in the San Francisco Bay area. The College also boasts a new campus with four new classrooms, administration offices, conference room, student kitchen and lounge, and a 2,100 square foot library fully equipped with an expansive collection of books, articles, periodicals, audio and video materials, computers, and a copier and printer for research and study.

There are several distinguishing points of ACTCM's doctoral program. Most notably, the program will offer the opportunity to: 1) develop a specialty; 2) identify strategies for interaction with western medicine, as well as participate in internships in integrated clinics;

3) discuss case studies in depth, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of patients, with emphasis on chronic, complex conditions; 4) participate in clinical capstone projects; and 5) develop the ability to obtain a high caliber of training in a schedule that meets the needs of practicing acupuncturists, said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for ACTCM, Elizabeth Goldblatt, PhD.

ACTCM's doctoral program will be offered in 4-day modules that meet once a month, and will take about 2 years to complete. The application deadline for the college's first cohort is June 1, 2006.

ACTCM, a non-profit organization, was the first college in the country to graduate students with a Master's Degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine (1987), and is the first to offer the DAOM in Northern California. The college has received awards for its faculty, clinic and curriculum, and is one of the oldest traditional Chinese medicine colleges in the country, currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

For more information on the program and admissions requirements, contact the College by telephone at 415-282-7600 x14, by email at admissions@actcm.edu, or visit the college online at www.actcm.edu.

ALTERATIVE VALENTINE'S DAY AT CRISSY FIELD

Never been a fan of Valentine's Day? This year, you can express your unique take on this national holiday favorite by spending quality time with loved ones at *Crissy Field Center*. Learn to make eco-friendly Valentine Day gifts on February 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Assemble pesticide-free flower bouquets and recycle junk into creative jewelry or join a guided stroll that takes you down historic Lover's Lane and up to Inspiration Point for romantic bay views. All ages welcome. Activities range in price from \$1 to \$10. Crissy Field Center is located at 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio of San Francisco. For more info and registration, call 561-7752 or visit www.crissyfield.org.



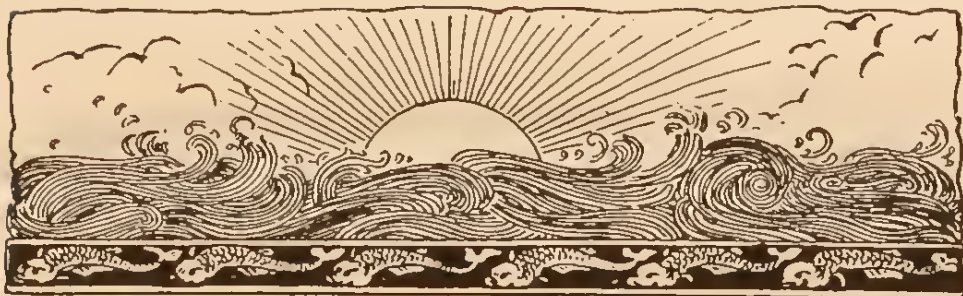
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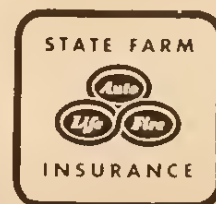
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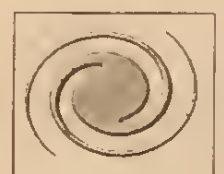
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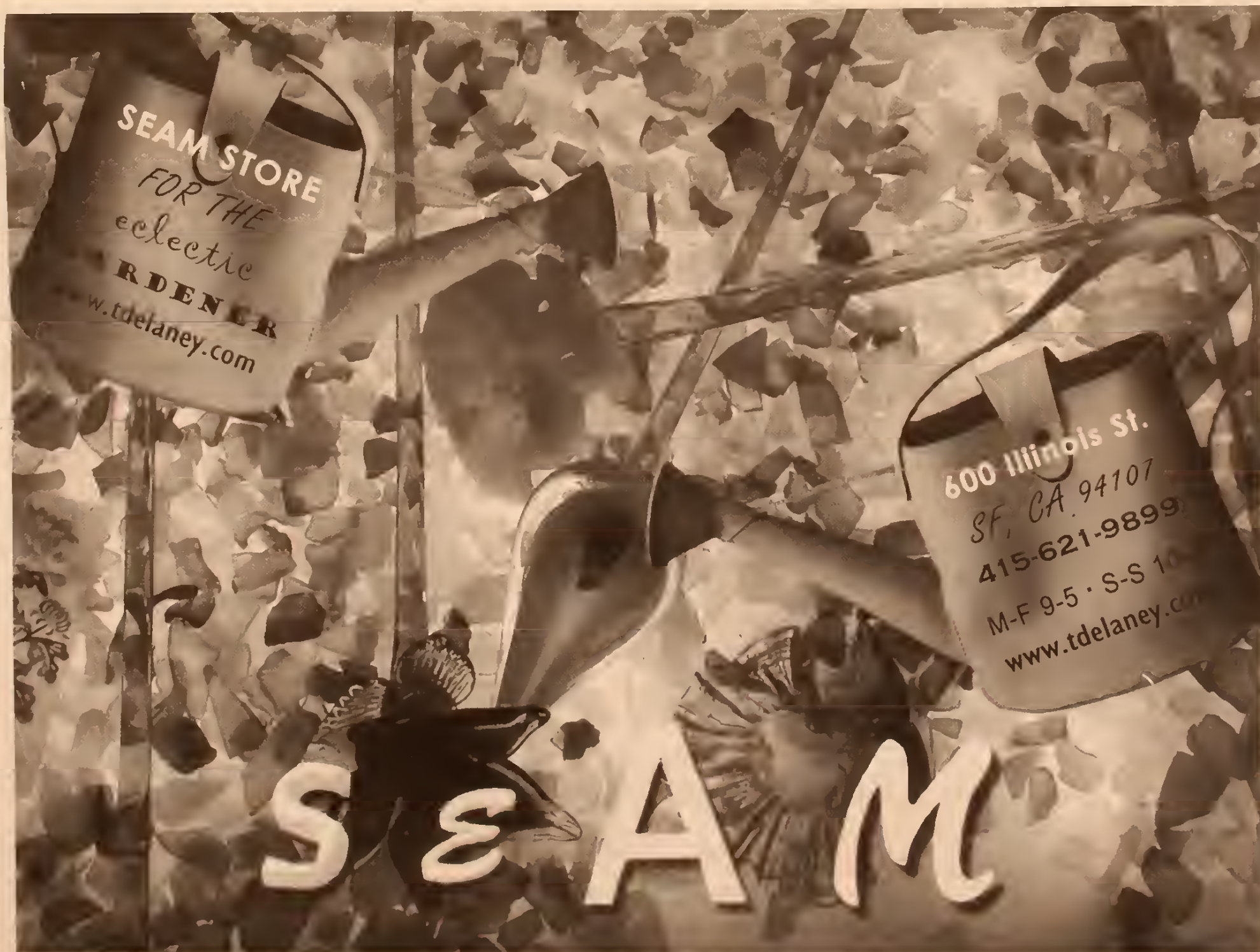
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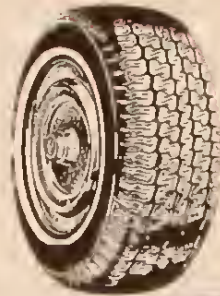


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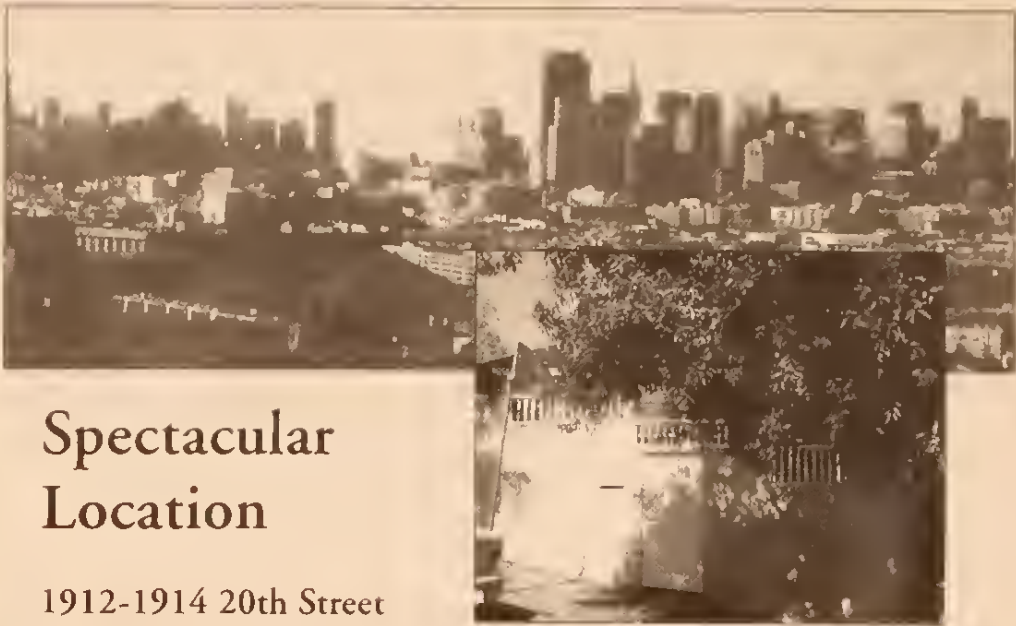
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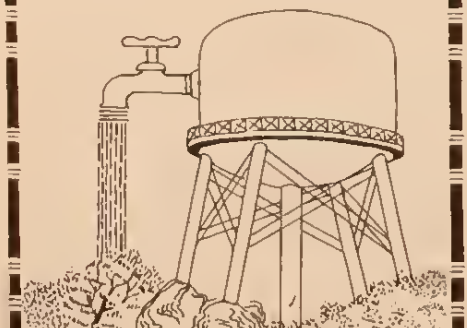
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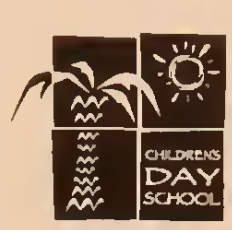
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GreenTrust

(Continued from Page 1)

apparent that the residents and businesses in the area were concerned about the lack of planning for open space to accommodate the residential projects being proposed for the changing industrial neighborhood. Our company discussed the issue and concluded that we needed to be part of a solution. We went back to the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association and offered to partner with them to create an area-wide plan. The idea of the GreenTrust was born."

Susan Eslick went on to explain that for years the Association, for which she serves as President, has worked with developers such as RAM Development (22nd and Texas) and Build Inc (Esprit Headquarters at 900 Minnesota) to set aside money for an open space fund. "We are delighted that these pledges are now going to be put to use, creating a fund to plan for parks and more green space, as well as the mechanism needed to raise funding for greening the neighborhood now and in the future. We are very thankful for the generous financial support from the Martin group."

The Executive Director of the Neighborhood Parks Council, Isabelle Wade expressed her excitement that the GreenTrust had chosen her organization to serve as the fiduciary agency while the GreenTrust matures. "This is the type of grassroots effort that can achieve so much, particularly dealing with the myriad of jurisdictions in the area." Jeff Condit, Program Director for NPC added, "We will work very hard to make this model work and believe it will be replicated elsewhere in the City."

Jane Martin, founder of Plant SF, a citywide sustainability and beautification organization, spoke of the need to take charge of local greening projects. The Shotwell Greenway, the first project completed by Plant SF, is a model for rethinking how we deal with storm water being directed into the ground instead of letting it run off into our already overflowing sewer system. That type of permeable sidewalk, along with the use of native and drought tolerant plants will be a big part of the area's greening efforts.

Marshall Foster, Director of the Mayor's Office of City Greening then explained how he has been charged with developing and implementing a new program to work with the City Agencies to make it easy and affordable for private property owners to create and improve their streetscape. He promised to help with the coordination that will be needed to make the GreenTrust vision a reality.

In addition to the speeches, attendees enjoyed sushi from Moshi Moshi, locally baked cookies, wine and beverages graciously provided by Build Inc. The crowd was also able to view presentations of upcoming projects and plans for several projects, and enjoyed an update by Jasper Rubin on the Central Waterfront/Showplace Square planning process underway once again. The event concluded with a raffle of over 30 door prizes contributed by area merchants, businesses and residents.

Susan Eslick invites all interested people to get involved. "We need to build on the incredible momentum. We have already received an offer to develop our GreenTrust web site from Ralph Wilson, a Potrero resident who built and maintains the Pier 70 and Dogpatch websites."

The planning group will meet on Thursday, February 9th at 2225 Third Street from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Goat Hill Pizza will be served to those attending.